

What is the Biggest Tree on Long Island?

A Competition open to all

An effort is being made to find out what are the biggest trees on Long Island by Norman Taylor of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, who is writing a book on the "Vegetation of Long Island." Residents of the Island, nature trampers and others are invited to send in records of the biggest trees they can measure. The winner of the competition will receive fifteen dollars, the second largest record ten dollars, and the third five dollars. The competitors are urged to observe the following suggestions:

1. The trees must be native and living. Foreign planted trees such as Weeping Willow, and others not eligible.
2. Circumference taken five feet from the ground, around a single trunk, not around a collection of them from a single root as sometimes happens.
3. Name (if possible) and exact location of tree and date of measurement.
4. If two or more contestants report on identical trees the first report received to be counted.
5. Contest closes on August 31, 1922.

Competitors may send in as many records of trees as they please. The undersigned will verify the measurements of the four biggest trees. Address all replies to Norman Taylor, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, New York. Winner and results of the competition will be announced in the newspapers.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 1922

The meeting was the annual business meeting, held at the American Museum of Natural History.

The minutes of the meetings of November 30 and December 13 were read and approved.

Professors C. R. Orton of State College, Pa., and Alfred H. W. Povah of Auburn, Ala., were elected to membership. The resignation of Mr. John W. Ritchie of Yonkers, N. Y., was accepted.

Reports of the officers were presented, accepted, and ordered to be placed on file.

The Acting Secretary reported the election of 39 members during 1921 and the loss of 13 members by resignation or death.

Dr. Britton for the Local Flora Committee reported the results of a movement to stimulate the writing of notes and papers on the local flora for publication in *Torreyia* in 1922; also the removal of the local flora herbarium to larger and more convenient quarters in the Museum of the N. Y. Botanical Garden; the gift of Mr. Kenneth Kent Mackenzie of a large and handsome oak table for use by those consulting this herbarium; also the appointment of the Rev. Dr. H. M. Denslow by the Managers of the N. Y. Botanical Garden as the honorary Custodian of the local flora herbarium. Dr. Britton stated that Mr. Mackenzie had proposed to give fifty dollars to be used towards defraying expenses of guides for the field meetings and, feeling that this might have a beneficial effect upon the field excursions of the Club, Dr. Britton said that he would add his personal check for the same amount, with the understanding that specimens of interest obtained on these excursions should be added to the local flora herbarium.

Officers for the ensuing year were then elected, the list of officers appears on the inside front cover of *Torreyia*.

Adjournment followed.

MARSHALL A. HOWE
Secretary

January 25, 1922

The meeting of January 25, 1922, was held in the Morphological Laboratory of the N. Y. Botanical Garden.

Prof. John T. Buchholz, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Ark., and Mr. Warren Travell, New York City, were elected to membership.

The resignation of Dr. Loren C. Petry was accepted.

Dr. F. J. Seaver discussed "The White Pine Blister Rust," directing special attention to some handsome colored photographs sent to the Museum of the New York Botanical Garden by the Bureau of Plant Industry. These illustrated the aecial stage of the rust on the white pine, other stages on species of *Ribes*, and methods of control through the eradication of *Ribes*.

The history of the introduction of the disease into the United States was sketched by Dr. A. H. Graves. Professor Harper alluded to investigations by Pennington which suggest the possibility of ultimate control through the killing of *Ribes* by the fungus itself.

Dr. Arthur Hollick, under the title of "Notes on Winter Buds of Paulownia" exhibited and discussed the flower-buds of *Paulownia tomentosa*, which are conspicuous objects through the winter, even though not opening until late spring or early summer. The open panicle with its widely separated buds, in striking contrast with the condensed miniature panicle in the winter flower-buds of such shrubs as *Syringa*, may possibly be interpreted as suggesting tropical affinities and antecedents. The genus *Paulownia* is commonly regarded as monotypic, but there may be two or more species in China. Only one fossil, consisting of leaves only, has been referred to the genus and that is from the late Tertiary in France.

Under the title "Notes on Fungi," Dr. W. A. Murrill exhibited a new species of *Lepiota*, collected by Zeller at Corvallis, Oregon. He remarked especially upon the beauty of its coloring. He spoke also of the occurrence of *Hygrophorus caprinus* in the vicinity of Boston, as proved by collections sent in by Miss Blackford and the exceptional occurrence of *Trametes suaveolens*, a species usually found on willow, on the large-toothed aspen at Yama Farms in the Catskills.

Mr. Kenneth R. Boynton spoke of "*Sinningia speciosa* and the Gardeners' Gloxinia." It appears that the plants popularly cultivated under the name "Gloxinia" are supposed to have been derived from the *Sinningia speciosa* of Brazil and that they are quite different from the rarely cultivated plants now known to botanists under the generic name *Gloxinia*. An herbarium specimen of *Sinningia speciosa* and cultivated flowering specimens of "Gloxinia" of the gardeners were exhibited.

MASHALL A. HOWE
Secretary

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 14, 1922.

The meeting of this date was held at the American Museum of Natural History.

The announced lecture on "Botanizing in British Guiana"

by Dr. H. A. Gleason was postponed on account of the illness of Dr. Gleason. Dr. G. Clyde Fisher gave a most interesting illustrated talk on "John Burroughs and his Favorite Haunts." Many of the lantern-slides were concerned with plants of the Hudson River valley and the Catskill Mountains.

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MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 1922.

As the fourth Wednesday in February coincided with a legal holiday, the second meeting for the month of February was omitted.

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NEWS ITEMS

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton returned to New York on April 10, having devoted several months to botanical explorations in Porto Rico.

Dr. Francis W. Pennell, who was Secretary and Treasurer of the Torrey Botanical Club during the greater parts of 1920 and 1921, is now Curator of Botany in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. His former position as Associate Curator at the New York Botanical Garden has been taken by Mr. James A. Crawford, formerly of the Buffalo Botanic Garden. Dr. Pennell recently left with his wife to spend some months collecting in Columbia, S. C.

An obituary notice of the late George Valentine Nash, who was for twenty years Head Gardener of the New York Botanical Garden and for even a longer period a member of the Torrey Botanical Club, appears in the *Journal of the New York Botanical Garden* for last August.

Through the personal generosity of Dr. N. L. Britton, the New York Botanical Garden has acquired the collection of algae left by Mr. F. S. Collins of Malden, and later of North Eastham, Mass. This collection includes more than 40,000 specimens and is doubtless one of the largest private collections of its kind in existence. The late Mr. Collins was the author of a well-known monograph on "The Green Algae of North America and of other important papers on the algae of the United State Bermuda, Jamaica, etc.